

Appendix to Response B**AMENDED CLAIMS**

- 1.) A method for the dehydration of naturally occurring organic substances containing biologically active components, which comprises comminuting such substances, combining such with an antimicrobial agent and an ionizing salt in a concentration of at least 15 per cent by weight of the comminuted substance, heating the resulting mixture in particulate form at a temperature below which denaturation occurs until the water content is reduced to below which substantial microbial or pathogenic activity occurs, and recovering the biologically active components of the comminuted product in their original natural structure.
2. The process of claim 1 wherein the ionizing salt is used in solid form.
3. A method for the dehydration of naturally occurring consumable substance, which comprises combining such substance with an ionizable salt, in a concentration of at least 15 % by weight of the substance and an antimicrobial agent and heating the resulting mixture in particulate form at a temperature below about 110° F until the water content is reduced to below 15 %.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the process is carried out in the presence of an oxygen containing antimicrobial agent and an ionizable consumable salt.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein the anti-microbial agent is a chlorine- containing compound.
6. The method of claim 3 wherein the substance is a protein.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the protein is Type II collagen-containing protein.

8. The method of claim 2 wherein the salt is sodium or potassium chloride.
9. The method of claim 4 wherein the dehydration is carried out at temperatures of 100 to 110° F.
10. The method of claim 4 wherein the naturally occurring material is a plant species
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the naturally occurring material is aloe or foxglove.
12. The method of claim 4 wherein the naturally occurring material is from an animal.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the naturally occurring material is bone cartilage.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein the bone cartilage contains Type II collagen.
15. The method of dehydrating chicken cartilage which comprises comminuting such, soaking the resulting product in an aqueous solution of an antimicrobial agent, blending such with potassium or sodium chloride in a concentration of at least 15 % by weight of the comminuted product and dehydrating the resulting mixture in particulate form at temperatures below 110° F until the water content is reduced to below 10%.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein the antimicrobial agent is a hypochlorite.
17. The process of claim 15 wherein the dehydration is carried out in the presence of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose or lecithin.